UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1995/101
26 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1995
Geneva, 26 June-28 July 1995
Agenda item 12 (b)

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS: CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Letter dated 22 June 1995 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council

In response to the Economic and Social Council's invitation set forth in its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988, the Committee on Conferences met on 21 June 1995 to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996 and 1997 in the economic, social and related fields, as contained in document E/1995/L.20. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings and to provide, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

In introducing the provisional calendar, the representative of the Secretariat referred to a number of amendments to the calendar. He drew the attention of the Committee to the number of subsidiary bodies that had been mandated to annualize their sessions, which was a cause for concern in view of the limited Secretariat services available, inter alia, for meetings and documentation.

During the discussion of the item, the question of the biennialization of conferences and meetings referred to in paragraph 2 (f) (ii) of Council resolution 1988/77 of 29 July 1988 was recalled. Concern was expressed regarding the increase in requests from intergovernmental bodies to seek exceptions to the biennialization of their sessions. It was suggested that the Council might review all mandates granted for annual cycles of meetings, although the view was also expressed that it was up to the subsidiary bodies to determine the need for such authorizations; that an arrangement could be explored to limit the number of bodies authorized to annualize their substantive sessions; and that the work of the Council's subsidiary bodies might be reviewed

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so as to avoid duplication, thereby maximizing the utilization of scarce conference-servicing resources.

Furthermore, the Committee was assured by the Secretariat that the Secretariat had taken into account the arrangements referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 49/221 A in the drafting of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996 and 1997 in the economic, social and related fields.

The Committee on Conferences recommended the adoption of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council for 1996-1997 with the amendments read out by the representative of the Secretariat.

The Committee also recommended, in view of the difficult financial situation of the Organization, that the Council continue to consider the biennialization of meetings of subsidiary bodies, taking into account the substantive needs of the bodies concerned. In this connection, requests for an annual cycle of meetings should be based on substantive reasons.

The Committee was apprised of the possibility of requests for open-ended, ad hoc meetings and noted with concern the possible adverse effect of such meetings on the efficient utilization of conference-servicing resources.

In closing, I should like to express the Committee's appreciation of the Council's invitation to review its draft calendar of conferences and meetings, and of the continued close cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Conferences.

(Signed) Fernando VARELA
Chairman
Committee on Conferences

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Distr.
GENERAL

E/1995/102
27 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1995
Geneva, 26 June-28 July 1995
Agenda item 5 (f)

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

Implementation and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (see A/CONF.166/9, chap. I), held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, will be reviewed by the General Assembly at its forthcoming fiftieth session. The Economic and Social Council will also consider the Summit through the report of the Commission for Social Development and under operational activities. In addition, the Economic and Social Council will hold discussions relevant to the Summit under its coordination segment, which will consider the coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (agenda item 3 (a)). When the General Assembly considers those matters at its fiftieth session, the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, will also be available.

2. The present note describes the main provisions of Commitment 10 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, which relates to international cooperation, and of chapter V of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which relates to implementation and follow-up.

3. A comprehensive report on the follow-up to the Summit will be presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. In particular, the present note will review the question of the coordination of the activities of the United Nations system to facilitate the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action (para. 98 (d)). Related initiatives under way involve implementation at both the national and international levels and are being pursued through consultations with Governments at the highest level and with the executive heads of United Nations programmes and agencies, including consultations in the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

I. GENERAL APPROACH TO THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4. The World Summit for Social Development was remarkable in its scope: it gave a comprehensive meaning to social development, encompassing the functioning of society and all institutions for the overall objective of the betterment of the human condition and it placed people at the centre of all concerns and policies for sustainable development, proclaiming that all human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with the environment. The Summit was also remarkable in the explicit and emphatic references it made to the role of all actors and social forces in promoting social development. The Summit was universal both in terms of the issues it addressed and in its mobilization of institutions, groups and individuals. Furthermore, the Summit was remarkable in terms of the emphasis that it placed on the principles and values, such as responsibility and solidarity, that should provide a foundation

for human endeavours and political actions. The Summit reiterated and renewed the emphasis on adopting an integrated approach to development. To the traditional requirements of integrating the economic and social facets of development, the Summit added a call for fully recognizing the political, legal and cultural dimensions of life in society.

5. On that basis and at all levels (national and international, public and private), the follow-up to the Summit should be:

(a) Innovative: while leading to practical results, existing processes and mechanisms should be transformed in their spirit and orientation and, whenever necessary, new approaches and arrangements should be put in place;

(b) Open: in its conception, preparation and convening, the Summit involved all nations as well as a large number of public and private institutions and organizations, placing particular emphasis on the poor, weak and vulnerable, not only to address their problems but also to give them a voice in local, national and international forums. The follow-up must pursue that orientation;

(c) Universal: while respectful of the diversity of conditions and perspectives that exist in the world, the follow-up should try to achieve a proper balance between the monitoring of universal commitments and forms of solidarity, on the one hand, and the continuous learning derived from the exchange of experience and from debates on specific policies adopted by individual Governments and other actors on the social scene, on the other;

(d) Holistic: while respectful of the specificity of the philosophy and message of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the search for a balance between a follow-up that would draw on the common elements of all international agreements and declarations and one that would focus on the particular added value of the Declaration and Programme of Action is of critical importance to nurturing the visibility and priority given to social development by the Summit.

II. FOLLOW-UP AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

6. The main responsibility for the implementation of the policies, actions and measures contained in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which are designed to fulfil the principles, goals and commitments enunciated in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, rests with national Governments. At the same time, it is one of the key axioms of the Summit that all private and public institutions and organizations, as well as all citizens, should share that responsibility. In the Declaration, heads of State and Government committed themselves to the Declaration and Programme of Action for enhancing social development and ensuring human well-being for all throughout the world into the twenty-first century, and invited all people, in all countries and in all walks of life, as well as the international community, to join them in their common cause (para. 12). The responsibility for the follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action - the review, assessment,

monitoring and evaluation of actions taken - also rests primarily with Governments, both individually and collectively.

7. Having committed themselves to an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, heads of State and Government agreed, at the national level, to adopt the appropriate measures and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the Summit, with the assistance, upon request, of the agencies, programmes and regional commissions of the United Nations system, and with the broad participation of all sectors of civil society (Commitment 10 (a)).

8. The measures and mechanisms enunciated in chapter V of the Programme of Action, "Implementation and follow-up" were placed within the context of a renewed and massive political will at the national and international levels to invest in people and their well-being (para. 82 of the Programme of Action). Measures and mechanisms to be developed at the national level (see para. 83 of the Programme of Action) include:

(a) An assessment of the characteristics of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, and an analysis and review of the effects of all macroeconomic and other policies on those social problems;

(b) The formulation or strengthening, by 1996, of comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the Summit outcome and national strategies for social development. Such strategies should include financial and budget considerations and should cut across traditional sectoral boundaries. Interministerial coordination and vertical integration from national capitals to local districts should be promoted;

(c) The elaboration of time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty, eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment, reducing unemployment and enhancing social integration;

(d) The development of quantitative and qualitative indicators of social development, including, where possible, disaggregation by gender;

(e) The strengthening of implementation and monitoring mechanisms. All countries should regularly assess their progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, possibly in the form of periodic national reports.

9. With regard to national reporting, during the recent debate of the Commission for Social Development several countries indicated that they would prepare such reports. It is also stated in the Programme of Action that national reports could be considered within the framework of an appropriate consolidated reporting system, taking into account the different reporting procedures in the economic, social and environmental fields (see para. 83 (j) of the Programme of Action; see also E/1995/86).

10. The assistance that the United Nations system, as well as bilateral agencies, should provide, upon request, to national authorities in their efforts at formulating national strategies for social development, is mandated in

paragraph 84 of the Programme of Action under three headings related to the strengthening or rebuilding of national capacities, the coordination of assistance provided by agencies for the implementation of other international action plans, and the development of concepts and programmes for the collection and dissemination of indicators and statistics.

11. Overall, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations organizations in providing support for social development efforts at the national level, the Programme of Action stresses the need to renew, reform and revitalize the various parts of the United Nations system, in particular its operational activities; to that end, relevant governing bodies are invited to review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities (see para. 96 (b) of the Programme of Action).

12. In the context of strengthening the United Nations operational activities for development, the Summit recommended in the Programme of Action that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through its network of field offices, and organize United Nations system efforts towards capacity building at the local, national and regional levels. The Summit also called for an improvement of coordination at the country level through the resident coordinator system and a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. South-South cooperation and technical cooperation among developing countries should be encouraged by the United Nations system. UNDP should also continue to support the implementation of social development programmes in countries with economies in transition (see paras. 97 (b) and 99 of the Programme of Action).

III. INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

13. The central importance of the human individual in the process of development, as well as the fact that social development requires the involvement of civil society in all decisions at all levels, are important elements of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. It is noted, for instance, that all actors of civil society need to positively contribute their own share of efforts and resources in order to reduce inequality among people and narrow the gap between developed and developing countries in a global effort to reduce social tension and to create greater social and economic stability and security.

14. Under chapter V, section B, of the Programme of Action, "Involvement of civil society", a strengthening of community organizations and non-profit organizations in all spheres of life in society and all facets of social development is recommended to enable such bodies to participate effectively in policy-making and implementation. Business enterprises, trade unions, farmers organizations, cooperatives, research and educational institutions and the media are all invited to enhance their contribution to social development.

15. The institutions, procedures and mechanisms that are to be put in place at the national, regional and international levels to ensure the implementation and

follow-up of the outcome of the Summit will have to include the effective participation of civil society. Such participation applies to all 10 commitments of the Declaration as well as the elaboration and implementation of the policies outlined in the Programme of Action for the creation of an enabling environment, the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment, and social integration.

16. Directly relevant to the actions required to ensure such effective participation of civil society in the follow-up to the Summit is the proposal of the Commission for Social Development for an opening of its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society (see paras. 29 and 30 below).

IV. FOLLOW-UP AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

17. In Commitment 10 (b) of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, it is indicated that the measures and mechanisms to be developed at the national level for the implementation and monitoring of the outcome of the Summit will also be pursued, as necessary and appropriate, in particular regions or subregions.

18. Accordingly, the regional commissions are invited to convene, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit, exchange views on their respective experiences and adopt appropriate measures. The regional commissions are also invited to report to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of those meetings (Commitment 10 (b) of the Declaration and para. 95 (h) of the Programme of Action).

19. The emphasis of the Summit on increased cooperation at all levels implies that the regional commissions and other organizations at the regional or subregional levels are expected to lend their support to the implementation of the objectives of the Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, particularly as they pertain to an enabling environment for social development, the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment, and social integration.

V. FOLLOW-UP AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

20. In Commitment 10 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, heads of State and Government decided, at the international level, to:

(a) Enlist the support and cooperation of all institutions of the United Nations system, as well as international development agencies and multilateral development banks, to take appropriate and coordinated measures for continuous and sustained progress in attaining the goals and commitments agreed to by the World Summit for Social Development. In that context, the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should establish regular and substantive dialogue, including at the field level, for more effective and efficient coordination of assistance for social development. That critical role of the

Bretton Woods institutions is emphasized in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development with regard to the mobilization of financial resources for social development in relation to structural adjustment programmes, as well as to the context of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and other United Nations conferences. In paragraph 95 (g) of the Programme of Action, it is stated that consideration should be given to the possibility of holding joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions and of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system are invited to hold joint meetings prior to the Development Committee sessions;

(b) Strengthen the structures, resources and processes of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and other organizations within the United Nations system that are concerned with economic and social development (for a more detailed treatment of the role of the Council, see paras. 25 and 26 below);

(c) Refrain from any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States.

21. The Declaration and Programme of Action state clearly that international cooperation and assistance are essential to the full implementation of the objectives of social development. In addition to supporting national efforts through various forms of direct assistance, the United Nations system promotes international cooperation through the deliberations of its legislative, governing and functional bodies. Those bodies, starting with the General Assembly and including the governing bodies of the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, bring together representatives of Governments. That intergovernmental process will contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Summit through discussions of agreed policies, exchanges of experience and elaboration of additional policy guidelines, as well as through the monitoring, review and assessment of actions taken and their results.

22. In view of the considerations outlined in paragraph 6 above, it is important that intergovernmental follow-up to the Summit in the United Nations be comprehensive in scope and encompass the following dimensions: an assessment of social conditions in the world, including the progress achieved as well as the major problems facing humankind; a review of the implementation of the 10 commitments and the basic principles and goals that constitute the essence of the Summit; an exchange of views among Governments and other partners of the social development process on the experience gained in the implementation of the policies recommended in the Programme of Action; providing support to regional cooperation for social development, including in relation with Commitment 7 of the Declaration, which aims to accelerate the economic, social and human resources development of Africa and the least developed countries; a review of support for national activities by the United Nations system, including the operational activities of the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the relevant activities of the international financial institutions; and a review of approaches to the financing of social development,

including the reduction or elimination of debt and the allocation of an average 20 per cent to basic social programmes in official development assistance (ODA) and national budgets, as recommended in paragraph 88 (c) of the Programme of Action. Also, a calendar for the consideration of these issues by the relevant organs of the United Nations, and, as appropriate, of the United Nations system, will have to be envisaged. The most important benchmark for a comprehensive treatment at the intergovernmental level of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action will be the special session of the General Assembly scheduled in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the Summit.

23. Since one of the three core issues of the Summit was the expansion of productive employment, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has a special role to play in the implementation and follow-up. In Commitment 3 of the Declaration, the goals of full employment and respect for workers' rights are to be supported at the international level through a variety of measures. In chapter III of the Programme of Action, it is indicated that Governments should enhance the quality of work and employment by, inter alia, promoting the role of the ILO, particularly as regards improving the level of employment and the quality of work. In chapter V, in the context of ensuring coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system, the General Assembly is invited to give consideration to requesting the ILO, which because of its mandate, tripartite structures and expertise has a special role to play in the field of employment and social development, to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 98 (c)).

A. Role of the General Assembly

24. The Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirm that the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental mechanism, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Summit. The functions of the Assembly would be (see paras. 95-98 of the Programme of Action):

(a) Review of the overall implementation of the outcome of the World Summit: to be a standing item on the agenda of the Assembly. In 1996, the Assembly could review the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the outcome of the Summit with regard to poverty eradication, as part of the activities for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. In addition, the Assembly should declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty. The Assembly is requested to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, and should consider further actions and initiatives. The various follow-ups conducted at different levels of the international community should be provided to the General Assembly in order to enrich this "overall review and appraisal";

(b) Promotion of international dialogue on critical social issues: the Assembly is invited to convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote such dialogue, including dialogues on policies for addressing such issues through international cooperation.

(c) Consideration of measures to ensure coherence in the activities of the system: the Summit agreements refer to the many entities in the system that will be involved in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and ILO. The Assembly is invited to draw upon the initial work of the agenda for development working group on a common framework for the implementation of the outcome of conferences. That task has also been mandated to the Economic and Social Council. In the same context, the Assembly should consider requesting the Secretary-General to ensure the effective coordination of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action.

B. Role of the Economic and Social Council

25. The functions of the Economic and Social Council in the follow-up to the Summit, as outlined in the Declaration and Programme of Action, can be summarized as follows (see Commitment 10 and paras. 93-95):

(a) System-wide coordination: the overall function of the Council would be to oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome and make recommendations in that regard;

(b) Promotion of international dialogue: the Council, as well as the General Assembly, could convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation;

(c) Review and assessment of progress made towards implementation of the outcome of the Summit:

(i) The Council is invited to use, as a basis for this review and assessment, the reports of national Governments, regional commissions, relevant functional commissions and of the specialized agencies;

(ii) The Council should report the results of its review and assessment to the General Assembly for its appropriate consideration and action;

(d) Elaboration of a common framework for the implementation of the outcome of United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields:

(i) The Council is invited, at its substantive session of 1995, to draw upon any initial work completed by that time on a common framework for the implementation of conference outcomes. The Summit identified a number of related conferences in paragraph 94 of the Programme of Action (see also E/1995/86);

(ii) To elaborate that common framework, which is also a framework for international cooperation that must be developed in the context of the agenda for development, consideration should be given to the possibility of holding joint meetings of the Council and the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

(e) Mobilization of financial resources:

(i) The relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Economic and Social Council, are requested, in addition to augmenting the flow of resources through established channels, to consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds and to offer for this purpose any useful suggestions;

(ii) In that regard, it will be recalled that the proposal for the establishment of a special fund for social development was deleted from the Programme of Action during the final negotiations at the Summit, on the understanding that the matter would be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 (see A/CONF.166/9, chap. IV, para. 14).

26. In order to support the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling its functions, heads of State and Government committed themselves, in Commitment 10 (e) of the Declaration, to strengthening the structures, resources and processes of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and other organizations within the United Nations system that are concerned with economic and social development; that point is made again in paragraph 95 (f) of the Programme of Action, with the recommendation that specialized agencies should have a closer working relationship with the Council and that the Council should improve its effectiveness.

C. Role of the Commission for Social Development and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

27. There are two general references to the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council in the Declaration and Programme of Action. The subsidiary bodies of the Council should be strengthened in their structures, resources and processes (see Commitment 10 (e)); and relevant functional commissions should provide reports to the Council for its review and assessment (see Commitment 10 (f)). In addition, there is a reference to the important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in reviewing the compliance by States Parties of the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (see para. 95 (i) of the Programme of Action).

28. The Council was invited, at its substantive session of 1995, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including considerations of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up (see para. 95 (f) of the Programme of Action).

29. At its thirty-fourth session (10-20 April 1995), the Commission for Social Development adopted a resolution on the follow-up to the Summit, which is before the Council (see E/1995/24, chap. I E). The Commission made three key points:

(a) It referred to its central role in the follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action;

(b) It proposed an opening of its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society;

(c) It indicated that the Council might consider an expansion of the membership of the Commission and the annualization of its meetings.

30. The central role of the Commission may require further elaboration; in any event, during the debate of the Commission last April, a central role was not equated with an exclusive role. With regard to the opening of the Commission to civil society, that recommendation is in keeping with one of the major themes of the Summit and is relevant to the overall functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations.

31. As to the periodicity of meetings of the Commission and its membership, the Council may wish to note that all other commissions or committees involved in the follow-up of major conferences meet annually. With regard to membership, the Commission for Social Development currently has 32 members (18 members in 1946, 21 in 1961 and 32 in 1966); the Commission on Population and Development has 27 members; the Commission on the Status of Women has 45 members; and the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Sustainable Development both have 53 members.

* * *

32. In the light of the above, the Economic and Social Council may wish, inter alia, to:

(a) Provide for the Commission for Social Development to have a central role in the implementation and follow-up of the Summit, and at the same time, affirm that most of its subsidiary bodies have a role to play in the follow-up to the Summit, as would other organs of the United Nations system;

(b) Approve the provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Commission, which reflects the central role mentioned above and is conducive to a rationalization of the methods of work of the Commission;

(c) Consider aligning the periodicity of the Commission's session with that of other bodies engaged in the follow-up to major conferences, starting in 1996 with a special session focused on the follow-up to the Summit;

(d) Consider ways and means to ensure that experts and the main actors of civil society are appropriately involved at the next session of the Commission, and request the Secretary-General to report to it in 1996 on the experience thus gained;

(e) Revert to the question of the membership of the Commission at its 1996 session, in the context of an overall review of the membership of all its subsidiary bodies;

(f) Request other functional commissions and committees to place on their agendas, in an appropriate manner, relevant aspects of the follow-up to the Summit.

33. In paragraph 95 (f) of the Programme of Action, the Council is invited to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent system that would result in clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors. The Council may wish to revert to the matter in 1996, in the light of proposals by the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of General Assembly discussions and relevant developments in other forums.